

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****MITIGATING SELF-PROPAGATING E-MAIL VIRUSES**

5        A method, system, and program for mitigating self-propagating e-mail viruses are provided. A request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to intended recipients is received. A characteristic of the intended recipients are compared with a maximum recipient limit for the file attachment. If the characteristic of the intended recipients exceeds the maximum recipient limit for the file attachment, then a sender authorization is requested prior to  
10      sending the electronic mail message. The sender authorization is required such that if a virus is attempting to self-propagate by sending the electronic mail message, the attempt is mitigated.